

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Amended) A metal strip (3) continuous casting plant (3) equipped with an ingot mould (16) and strip temperature regulation device consisting of a pair of parallel, counter-rotating rolls (2, 2') and by two closing plates at the ends of said rolls (2, 2') defining a vertical casting plane of said strip (3), wherein the strip temperature regulation device comprises at least one substantially rectangular panel (5) placed below the plane of the axis of said rolls (2, 2') and with its longest dimension substantially parallel to the axis of said rolls and at least one conduit (6, 8, 8') suitable for the passage of cooling gas characterized in that the at least one substantially rectangular panel (5) is placed below the rolls at such a short distance from the rolls that the temperature of the strip, in the zone immediately upon exit from the ingot mould, is maintained uniform along its length and in that at least one panel (5) is inclined at a predetermined angle with respect to said vertical strip casting plane (3).

2. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein there are provided outlet nozzles (7) of said at least one conduit (6, 8, 8') adapted for spraying gas towards the strip (3).

3. (Original) The device according to claim 2, wherein said conduits (6) are formed inside said at least one panel (5).

4. (New) The device according to claim 3, wherein said at least one panel (5) has means for varying the inclination with respect to the vertical strip casting plane (3).

[[4]] 5. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 2, wherein said conduits (8, 8') are located externally alongside said at least one panel (5).

[[5]] 6. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 5, wherein there are provided more than one conduits (8, 8') .

[[6]] 7. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~claim 5~~ claim 6, wherein said at least one panel (5) is made of refractory material.

[[7]] 8. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 7, wherein said at least one panel (5) has means for varying the inclination with respect to the vertical strip casting plane (3).

[[8]] 9. (Currently Amended) The device according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, wherein there are provided two panels (5) placed symmetrically at each side of said vertical strip casting plane (3).

10. (New) The device according to claim 9, wherein said at least one panel (5) has means for varying the inclination with respect to the vertical strip casting plane (3).

Should the Examiner have any suggestions for expediting allowance of the application, please contact Applicant(s) representative at the telephone number listed below.

If any additional fee is due, please charge deposit account 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,



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By:

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